

## UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT

for the  
Southern District of OhioFILED  
JOHN P. HERYAN  
CLERK

2013 NOV 21 PM 2:47

In the Matter of the Search of  
(Briefly describe the property to be searched  
or identify the person by name and address)Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US,  
postmarked November 20, 2013, weighing 4 pounds 1 ounce,  
addressed to Joshua Bloom, 11569 Gerity Ct, Cincinnati, OH 45240  
with a return address of Sofia Castaneda, 4526 E Turner, Fresno, CA  
93706Case No. **1:13MJ-709**U.S. DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DIST OHIO  
WEST DIV. CINCINNATI

## APPLICATION FOR A SEARCH WARRANT

I, a federal law enforcement officer or an attorney for the government, request a search warrant and state under penalty of perjury that I have reason to believe that on the following person or property (identify the person or describe the property to be searched and give its location):

Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US

located in the Southern District of Ohio, there is now concealed (identify the person or describe the property to be seized):

Controlled Substances, materials and documents reflecting the distribution of controlled substances through the U.S. Mails, including money and/or monetary instruments paid for controlled substances

The basis for the search under Fed. R. Crim. P. 41(c) is (check one or more):

- ☒ evidence of a crime;
- ☒ contraband, fruits of crime, or other items illegally possessed;
- ☐ property designed for use, intended for use, or used in committing a crime;
- ☐ a person to be arrested or a person who is unlawfully restrained.

The search is related to a violation of: Title 21

Code Section  
841 (a) (1), 843 (b) & 846Offense Description  
Conspiracy to distribute a controlled substance  
Possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance

The application is based on these facts:

See attached affidavit of U.S. Postal Inspector O'Neill

- ☒ Continued on the attached sheet.
- ☐ Delayed notice \_\_\_\_\_ days (give exact ending date if more than 30 days: \_\_\_\_\_) is requested under 18 U.S.C. § 3103a, the basis of which is set forth on the attached sheet.

Applicant's signature

Karen L. O'Neill, U. S. Postal Inspector

Printed name and title

Sworn to before me and signed in my presence.

Date: 11/21/13

Judge's signature

City and state: Cincinnati, Ohio

Honorable Stephanie K. Bowman  
United States Magistrate Judge

Printed name and title

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF OHIO  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

STATE OF OHIO                    )  
  ) SS  
COUNTY OF HAMILTON        )

AFFIDAVIT IN SUPPORT OF SEARCH WARRANT

I, KAREN O'NEILL, HAVING BEEN DULY SWORN, DEPOSE AND STATE: I am a United States Postal Inspector, having been so employed since March 2003. I am presently assigned to the Cincinnati Field Office, Pittsburgh Division of the Postal Inspection Service with investigative responsibility for Southwest Ohio, Northern Kentucky, and Southeast Indiana. Part of my investigative responsibility involves the use of the United States Mail in the transporting of narcotics and other dangerous controlled substances and financial proceeds relating thereto.

Your affiant has become aware that drug traffickers frequently use Express Mail, a business-oriented overnight service offered by the United States Postal Service, to transport narcotics and other dangerous controlled substances, and their proceeds or instrumentalities from the sale of the controlled substances. Your affiant has also become aware that drug traffickers frequently use Priority Mail with delivery confirmation, a 2-3 day service offered by the United States Postal Service. As a result of investigations and successful controlled substance prosecutions where the Mail was used, your affiant has learned of certain characteristics indicative of other Mail items previously identified as containing narcotics or other dangerous controlled substances, their proceeds or instrumentalities from the sale of the controlled substances. Some of these characteristics include, but are not necessarily limited to or used on every occasion, the mailer using different post offices on the same day to send parcels, false or non-existent return address, addressee is not known to receive mail at the listed delivery address, the package is heavily taped, the package is mailed from a known drug source location, labeling information contains misspellings, the label contains an illegible waiver signature, unusual odors emanating from the package, and the listed address is located in an area of known or suspected drug activity.

On November 21, 2013, your affiant requested a check in the postal service product tracking system for suspicious parcels going to southern Ohio. Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US was located going to Cincinnati, Ohio coming from southern California, a known drug source area.

On November 21, 2013, your affiant contacted the Cincinnati Postal Processing & Distribution Center (P&DC) and requested to be contacted when the aforementioned parcel arrived to be processed.

On November 21, 2013, your affiant was contacted by a clerk at the Cincinnati P&DC regarding the arrival of Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US. The parcel is addressed to Joshua Bloom, 11569 Gerity Ct, Cincinnati, OH 45240 with a return address of Sofia Castaneda, 4526 E Turner, Fresno, CA 93706.

Your affiant requested the parcel be placed in a secure location for further investigation.

On November 21, 2013, your affiant obtained Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US from the Cincinnati P&DC.

On November 21, 2013, your affiant did a check in Accurint on the return address 4526 E Turner, Fresno, CA 93706. Accurint is a law enforcement database that is used as a tool for investigators to identify person/business and address information. According to Accurint, 4526 E Turner, Fresno, CA 93706 does not exist.

On November 21, 2013, your affiant did a check in Accurint on the addressee address 11569 Gerity Ct, Cincinnati, OH 45240. According to Accurint, the name "Bloom" is not associated with that address.

On November 21, 2013, the Cincinnati Police Department Narcotics Unit was contacted to arrange for a narcotic canine to check the parcel. Officer Phil Stoup responded to the Cincinnati Postal Inspection Service office, Cincinnati, Ohio where the parcel was placed in a controlled area and presented to narcotic

canine, "Max". "Max" alerted positively to the presence or odor of a controlled substance or their proceeds or instrumentalities upon Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US addressed to Joshua Bloom, 11569 Gerity Ct, Cincinnati, OH 45240. Attached herewith, and made part hereof by reference, is a photocopy of the narcotic canine handler's record of examination.

The parcel is further identified as follows: a U.S. Postal Service cardboard box approximately 11" x 9" x 6" in size, bearing Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US, weighing 4 pounds 1 ounce, postmarked November 20, 2013; see address information below:

**Sender:** Sofia Castaneda  
4526 E Turner  
Fresno, CA 93706

**Addressee:** Joshua Bloom  
11569 Gerity Ct  
Cincinnati, OH 45240

This information, along with the positive alert of narcotic canine "Max" is indicative of a drug package or its proceeds.

Based on the information contained herein, your affiant believes that contained in Priority Mail Express parcel label number EK060814563US is a quantity of a narcotic or other dangerous controlled substance, their proceeds or instrumentalities.

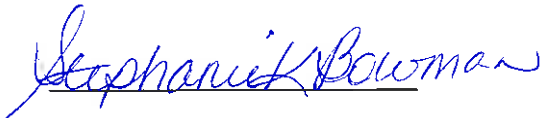
Therefore, a search warrant to open the parcel is requested.

Further, your affiant sayeth naught.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "K O'Neill", written over a horizontal line.

Karen O'Neill  
Postal Inspector

Subscribed and sworn to and before me this 21 day of Nov., 2013.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephanie K. Bowman", written over a horizontal line.

Honorable Stephanie K. Bowman  
United States Magistrate Judge



United States Postal Inspection Service  
Pittsburgh Division

OFFICER AFFIDAVIT

I, Officer P. Stoup, am and have been employed by  
the CINCINNATI POLICE DEPT since 1993. Among other duties, I am  
currently the assigned handler of narcotics detection canine "Max" which  
is trained and certified in the detection of the presence or odor of narcotics described as follows:

MARIJUANA, COCAINE, HEROIN, AND METHAMPHETAMINES

On 11-21-13, at the request of Postal Inspector K. O'Neill, I responded to  
Cincy Postal Inspector, where "Max" did alert to and  
indicate upon: [describe item]

PM Express DL06081476305 addressed to Joshua Bloom  
11566 Geny Ct Cincinnati OH 45240 with a return address  
of John Castaneda 4526 E Turner Fresno CA 93706

Which, based upon my training and experience and that of "Max", indicates  
there is contained within or upon the above described item, the presence or odor of a narcotic or  
other controlled substance.

[Signature]  
(Signature and Date)

11/21/13

[Signature]  
(Signature and Date)

11-21-13